

Request for Proposals

STOP VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Victim Services Funding

Background Information

RI Justice Commission is seeking proposals from **culturally specific organizations** for Victims Services funds. These funds are available through the Violence Against Women Act (STOP VAWA) to meet the needs of underserved populations, specifically by enhancing collaborative advocacy efforts and providing direct services to culturally specific victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Culturally specific organizations are defined as 'not for profit' groups or agencies whose mission it is to serve racial, ethnic and/or cultural groups and organizations that serve the specific needs of a particular community. These funds are not meant for organizations that simply have a program within their organization that is culturally specific. The intent of this funding is to provide domestic violence and sexual assault victim services by and for communities of color.

The exact funding available is determined by the federal government, and has not been confirmed. We anticipate that the funding available will be in the \$24,000 range for a 12 month cycle. This RFP is being designed with an assumption that one or possibly two culturally specific organizations will be awarded funding. Funding requests should not exceed \$24,000. In the event that two agencies are chosen for funding, the award of approximately \$24,000 would be split between the two organizations. Entities applying for funds must be 'not-for-profit' groups, tribal organizations or faith-based groups whose mission it is to serve culturally and linguistically specific groups (however, federal funds cannot be used for inherently religious purposes). These groups need not be 501 C 3. No units of government are eligible for funding.

The STOP VAWA funds are issued on a 12-month cycle; it is anticipated that this award will be made during the fall of 2007, with a start date for the project of January 1, 2008.

Description of the STOP VAWA Program Goals

The overall goal of the STOP VAWA Victims Services program is: **To enhance collaborative advocacy efforts, and to provide services to underserved populations of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault from communities of color and linguistic minorities.**

With the implementation of VAWA 2005, and the Congressional intent to have services reach victims from culturally specific populations, these funds are set aside from the STOP VAWA Victims Services allocation to address this focus.

Requirements

The subcontractor is responsible for timely submission of quarterly financial and progress reports. The subcontractor is also required to participate collaboratively with the existing local or statewide efforts to improve systems advocacy, statewide policies and protocols for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Specific collaboration with a local domestic violence or sexual assault provider is required. It is suggested that the subcontractor collaborate with a RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence member agency (for local agencies visit www.ricadv.org) and/or Day One (www.dayoneri.org), formerly the Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center.

If your agency does not have financial capacity to receive the funds, please identify the entity that will act as fiscal agent and receive the funds. Proposals will be considered for those agencies building capacity, though priority will be given to agencies doing direct service work. 100% of the funds must go to program activity.

Grant Proposals/Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee established by the RI Justice Commission. Points will be awarded based on the criteria below:

Section One: Organizational Capacity (20 points)

Please describe the history of your organization i.e. budget, staffing, Board of Directors etc. Describe how your agency has demonstrated its capacity to provide services to victims of domestic violence /sexual assault. Please also describe your organization's capacity to reach culturally specific communities.

Section Two: Priority Population(s) (10 points)

Who do you identify as your culturally specific priority population(s)? Please be sure to include information about who you define as the population, data or other information that support your proposal and a description of how you reached the conclusion that you reached.

Section Three: Proposed Services for Victims (50 points)

Describe the service(s) or program(s) that you will be providing with the use of the STOP VAWA funds to meet the needs of the population that you identified in Question Two. Please be sure to fully describe your implementation plan, methodology (how you will carry out your plan) and staffing plans.

Section Four: Collaboration (10 points)

What local domestic violence or sexual assault agency or group will you collaborate with? How will your organization collaborate with this agency or group?

Section Five: Budget (10 points)

Please complete the attached budget form and narrative. This may not exceed the one page form that is provided.

Attachments

Please include the most recent operating budget for your organization. If the applicant's proposal outlines specific position(s) that are to be supported by this funding source, please include the job description. If another organization will act as fiscal agent on your organization's behalf, a principal of that organization must send a letter affirming that no project funds will be used for administrative expenses. A letter of support from the collaborative partner (domestic violence or sexual assault service provider) is required, stating intentions and how the organizations will work together. Other letters of support will be accepted, but are not required. If they are included, they must be directly applicable to the project or program outlined in the proposal.

Length of Proposal

Proposal narratives should be a maximum of five pages, not including the 1-page budget form and Attachments. Proposal narratives must have one-inch margins, and at least 12-point font, with at least 1.5 line spacing.

Proposal Due Date

Proposals are due by **3:00 pm on Friday September 28, 2007** at the Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit. Proposals received any later than 3:00 pm on September 28, 2007 will not be considered. You may either mail or drop off your completed application and five copies to:

Janice Dubois
Director, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit
5 Hill Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Technical Assistance

If you have any questions regarding this RFP, you may contact Janice Dubois at 729-4480. If you wish to hand deliver the RFP to Janice, call for directions. Easy parking is available, curb-side or the parking lot on Hill St.

BUDGET Information:

Please indicate how the proposed funding request would be allocated:

	Budget
Salary	_____
Fringe	_____
Rent/Utilities	_____
Office Supplies	_____
Telephone	_____
Postage	_____
Printing	_____
Travel	_____
Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

Please explain, with a budget narrative, how the expenses outlined would be spent.